Cab. A.

Bridgeman, E.C.

Letter of, from Andover Semy., Sept. 8, 1824, to Messrs. N. Read & J. D. Mitchell, Students in Princeton Semy., on Foreign Missions.

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THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY.

Theol. Seminary
Andover Sept 8th 1828.

Dear Brethren.

Yours of the 21st ult. from the pen of Br. C. E. Goodrich was duly rec'd. We thank you for it — we were glad to receive such an expression of your love & friendship, & devotedness to the cause of missions. Although strangers to us in the flesh, you are near to us in the Spirit. We can feel no reserve in writing to you — we must speak out to you our whole hearts. Our hopes, our aims are one. If our Divine and Heavenly father wills it we will desire no more of glory & honor in this world, than to go forth as heralds of the cross to preach glad tidings to the heathen — to labour & suffer, & die, if need be, for the sake of him who has died for us. The work is great, & who is sufficient for such things? But if our strength is in God, then can we endure all things, & conquer, though we die. In God then let us trust; & as brethren in Christ, by mutual prayers & counsels, strive to urge each other onward to the great work.

You wish to know in regard to our — &c. We are, now present in the Seminary, eleven. Br. Charles R. Fisk has withdrawn. This he was compelled to do on account of his fathers entire unwillingness to have him go to a foreign land. The case was a strange and sad one. A father unwilling! Our Heavenly father gave his Son. Br. F. had engaged in the service of the Home Mission. Br. D. Shipley has not, & it is quite doubtful whether he will give himself up

to the Board. He received an invitation from them early in the year. His reason for declining their invitation are two— unwillingness of his mother, & ill health. B. Babcock too has an unwilling mother & is yet in doubt. Bro. Dwight, Leavenworth, & Allen have given themselves up to the Board, & will, probably, engage in their service very soon after our Anniversary. B. Allen— I believe, expects to go among our Indians. Bro. Dwight & Leavenworth's destination is somewhat doubtful— probably, they will travel as agents in this country for a few months— & then go out to some foreign land. This is all that I have to tell you about our Senior Brethren— In the Mid. Class we are four, including myself, & in the Junior three— leaving Seven after our Senior Brethren leave us, & among us Seven, I believe there are none who will be troubled with unwilling mothers. As to our prospects of increase in number & Spirit the next year— we hope to tell you good things hereafter.

Speaking of the diminution of your number— you expess our own feelings when you say, "we feel that our association might much better suffer complete extinction than be filled up of those who are not fully set upon laboring in a foreign field." We want men of warm— hearts— full of zeal— & prudence— & love— & Self denying— willing to do any thing & be any thing, to join us here at home. A man that is cold & dead— & unfeeling here at home can never live abroad.

I have before me a letter from the Rev. Levi Spaulding of Manepy Ceylon, to a friend of his in this neighbourhood. The letter is under date of March 2d 1827. Mr. S. speaks with emphasis of the qualifications of the missionary. Ardent piety — more than a common share of zeal under the controll of good common sense, which by the way he says is worth more than profound learning — kindness — gentleness, brotherly love & a spirit to be least & last of all in the field, & spirit to say little & do much — willing to be called the worst of names & that to your face &c. &c — are among the qualifications which he mentions. Cheerfulness he also mentions as very important. As for himself & &c — he says "we have little indeed. A little older of course. With regard to the heart — ends as well as ever — speak right on — the — are very happy in our connection with our little circle of Mission. Bro & Sr — & happy in our work. Would not go home if we could go for nothing unless we could come back a cheap the next day". I am quote no more — though the letter is all good — & to us it is very good to gather up such kind of information from those who are before us. We need to be armed & prepared for every thing. Our hearty salutations to you all. Brethren, pray for us always. Pray that God will bless us while here — that he will prepare us, in his own time, to go to the heathen, & labour well till death. In behalf of the Brethren I am dear Brethren yours in Christian love

Bro. H. Reid & L. D. Mitchell.

Elijah C. Bridgman.

Dr. B. Mitchell

Elijah C Brigman
Andover. Sept 8. 1828
General — Some account
from Ceylon —

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Mr. Hollis Read, or
Mr. Jacob D. Mitchell.
Students at the Theol. Semenary
Princeton
N. J.